4. **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)**

HPCL has signed a letter of intent with British Petroleum for jointly promoting at least 9.0 MMTPA capacity refinery at Bathinda, in Punjab.

HPCL is also evaluating possibility of setting up a condensate splitter cum aromatic project near Visakh, Andhra Pradesh with M/s. Total S.A. France for jointly promoting this project.

LNG Terminal at Kochi

700. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on the proposed LNG Terminal at Vallarpadam, Kochi is in progress;

(b) if so, the expected time of commencing its operation;

(c) whether the supply of the LNG has since been ensured through international bidding; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Various pre-project activities have been completed including allotment of land, major statutory clearances and pre-qualification of EPC contractors. Tenders have been issued for Time Charter Parties for shipping and for site grading.

(b) The project is expected to be operational by the last quarter of 2009.

(c) and (d) M/s Petronet LNG Limited (PLL) contracted 7.5 MMTPA of LNG from Ras Gas, Qatar in 1999, of which 5 MMTPA is at present being supplied to their Dahej LNG Terminal. Among the promoters of PLI, M/s. GAIL, IOC and BPCL have further contracted 5 MMTPA of LNG from National Iranian Gas Export Company (NIGEC). Further supplies are being negotiated from other sources. Thus the Kochi terminal is expected to receive supplies contracted and being negotiated.